

**Memorandum on Transfer of
Defense Articles and Services in
Support of the Southern Sudan
Security Sector Reform (SSR)
Program**

April 25, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007-17

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfer of Defense Articles and
Services in Support of the Southern Sudan
Security Sector Reform (SSR) Program

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 40(g) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and section 301 of title 25, United States Code, I hereby:

- Determine and certify that the transaction, encompassing U.S. Government-funded transfers and commercial exports of defense articles and services necessary for an SSR program for the security sector of the Government of Southern Sudan, including support for: transformation of the Sudan People's Liberation Army from a guerrilla force into a smaller, conventional force; the Sudan People's Liberation Movement; a protective service detail, police service, intelligence, and other law enforcement entities of the Government of Southern Sudan; and private entities involved in the SSR program, is essential to the national security interests of the United States;
- Waive the prohibitions in section 40 of the AECA related to such a transaction; and
- Assign to you the functions of the President under section 40(g)(2) of the AECA to consult with and submit reports to the Congress for proposed specific transfers or exports, 15 days prior to permitting them to proceed, that are necessary for and within the scope of this waiver determination and the transaction referred to herein.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and ar-

range for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2.

**Remarks Following Discussions With
President Alvaro Uribe Velez of
Colombia**

May 2, 2007

President Bush. It's been my honor to welcome a true democrat, a strong leader, and a friend, the President of Colombia. We had a long discussion.

First, Mr. President, Laura and I remember fondly our trip to your beautiful country. It was my second trip to Colombia, my first to your capital, and it was a very special occasion. And we thank you and the First Lady for such gracious hospitality.

Secondly, we had a discussion today about an important vote that our Congress must take, and that is a vote to confirm a free trade agreement with Colombia. This agreement is good for the United States. It's good for job creators, farmers, workers. This agreement is good for Colombia. It's good for job creators and workers and farmers.

This agreement has strategic implications. It is very important for this Nation to stand with democracies that protect human rights and human dignity, democracies based upon the rule of law. So the free trade agreement with Colombia and Peru and Panama, these agreements are more than just trade votes; they're signals to South America that we stand with nations that are willing to make hard decisions on behalf of the people.

The President is here to speak strongly about his record, and it's a good, solid record. I thank the Members of Congress for giving him a hearing. We expect them to be open-minded, to listen to his record. And I urge the Congress to pass a trade agreement with Colombia and Peru and Panama because it's in our interest that they do so.

And so, Mr. President, it's great to see you. *Bienvenidos.*

President Uribe. *Muchas gracias, Presidente.*

Good morning, distinguished journalists. I want to thank President Bush for the new meeting. It has been, as always, very constructive. This meeting has given my team and myself the opportunity to reiterate our commitment with democracy.

We have three main objectives in our administration: to consolidate democratic security; to create more and more confidence in Colombia for people to invest in our country; and to fulfill very important social goals, to fulfill social goals before the deadline of the social millennium goals.

Many people ask me, why you call your policy on security democratic security? Because it is security with human rights; because it is security for all Colombians; because it is security for trade union leaders, for those member of the opposition, for those who agree in their ideas with my Government, security for all Colombians.

During my 5-year term, we have healthy elections, and Colombians have enjoyed effectiveness of our freedoms because of our policy on security. Before my administration, many Colombians had the idea that the only way for my country to reach peace, it was by private criminal organizations. Today, because of the efficacy of our administration, the vast majority of Colombians are convinced that we will defeat terrorists by institutional ways, that the only way Colombia has for the future is the way of our democratic institutions.

It is very important that the United State considers the necessity to advancing Plan Colombia. We haven't won yet in eradicating illicit drugs, but we are winning. And it is very important, the free trade agreement. I will explain in Capitol Hill, and I will explain to the American citizens the same I explain to President Bush this morning: The more our country can export, the better for my country to have high-quality jobs with affiliation to the social security system.

We are doing our best to defeat terrorists in a open country. Everyone in the world can go to Colombia, can oversight what our country is doing. And what our country does today is in favor of democracy.

I want to thank President Bush, his team, the people of Congress, and the American citizens for the help all of you have given

our country. This integration is very important to promote democracy, to promote freedoms—freedom, to promote social justice. This is—these are our commitments.

Thank you, President Bush.

President Bush. *Gracias, amigo.*

President Uribe. *Muchas gracias.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:51 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lina Maria Moreno de Uribe, wife of President Uribe. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks to the Associated General Contractors of America and a Question-and-Answer Session

May 2, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Please be seated. Steve, unlike you, I have trouble finding the front end of a front-end loader. [*Laughter*] Thanks for having me. I'm proud to be here with the AGC. It's the oldest and largest construction trade association in our country. I understand I'm not the first Bush to have ever addressed the AGC convention; a person I now refer to as 41 addressed you. [*Laughter*] And I appreciated your hospitality to him then, and I appreciate your hospitality to me today.

I want to talk about—a little bit about our economy, and I want to talk a lot about our security. And I thank you for giving me a chance to come by. What I thought I would do is try to keep my remarks relatively brief and then maybe give you all some time to ask some questions.

First, I want to thank Steve. Steve is a Virginia Tech grad, and our hearts are still heavy as a result of that terrible incident there on the campus. And yet, the amazing thing about that campus—and a lot of other places around the country—is we've got a great resiliency; people bounce back from tragedy. So, Steve, you can tell the Virginia Tech community, we're still thinking about them and appreciate very much the great kind of strength of spirit there—at least I saw that there in Blacksburg, Virginia.

I want to thank two Members of the Senate who have joined us. First, John Warner,